

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

FOR ARMSTRONG AND SCRANTON ONLY

FOL RPT GENEVA 9709 ACTION SECSTATE 6 DEC QUOTE

S E C R E T GENEVA 9709

NODIS

FOR AF - EDMONDSON FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR RH UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RHODESIAN PLANS TO TABLE PAPER
ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT

1. WADDINGTON OF THE RHODESIAN DELEGATION CALLED AT
10:00 DEC 6 TO SAY HE HAD PREPARED A PAPER OUTLINING THE
RHODESIAN PROPOSALS FOR STRUCTURE OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT
WHICH HE WANTED US TO SEE.

2. LATER AT THEIR HOTEL, WADDINGTON, JOINED BY PARTRIDGE,
EXPLAINED THAT DOCUMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN CLEARED BY
SALISBURY AND THEREFORE THEY DID NOT WANT TO PROVIDE US

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WITH COPY AT THIS TIME. SALISBURY HAD CABLED THAT

CLEARANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING DEC 7. WADDINGTON SAID PAPER WOULD NOT BE TABLED BEFORE WEDNESDAY IN VIEW OF RICHARD'S DEPARTURE FOR LONDON MONDAY EVENING. (RICHARD IS LEAVING FOR HIS REGULAR CONSULTATIONS.) SMITH, HE SAID, IS EXPECTED IN GENEVA ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. RHODESIANS DO NOT INTEND TO SHOW DOCUMENT TO BRITISH UNTIL IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BUT WERE ANXIOUS TO HAVE OUR VIEWS ON ITS CONTENTS, AND POSSIBLY THOSE OF WASHINGTON AS WELL, IN ADVANCE.

3. DOCUMENT, AS WADDINGTON EXPLAINED, IS AN AMALGAMATION OF SMITH'S SEPT 24 SPEECH AND ELEMENTS DRAWN FROM ANNEX C. IT REFERS TO COUNCIL OF STATE AS SUPREME BODY, WITH CHAIRMAN DRAWN FROM EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBLE FOR PRIMARY LEGISLATION, SUPERVISION OF DRAFTING OF CONSTITUTION, APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND ALLOCATION OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS. "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE," I.E. BRITISH INVOLVEMENT, WOULD BE KEPT TO A BARE MINIMUM. DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER PORTFOLIOS WOULD REMAIN IN EUROPEAN HANDS. ONE PROVISION THAT WADDINGTON ACKNOWLEDGED IS ENTIRELY NEW IS STATEMENT THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE AFRICAN MAJORITY OF ONLY ONE. PARTRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS MERELY A RHODESIAN BARGAINING POSITION: "WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE."

4. PAPER BEGINS WITH STATEMENT THAT IT IS A RHODESIAN DOCUMENT, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE THE AGREEMENT OR ENDORSEMENT OF EITHER THE US OR THE BRITISH. THOUGH ELEMENTS OF IT ARE DRAWN FROM ANNEX C, THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN THE PAPER TO THAT OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENT. NEVERTHELESS, PARTRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT IN VIEW OF OUR PREVIOUS WARNINGS ABOUT NOT REVEALING CONTENTS OF ANNEX C, HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER PRESENTATION OF THE PAPER WOULD POSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR THEMSELVES OR THE US. SECONDLY, PARTRIDGE SAID HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER WE FELT THE PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENT WOULD CAUSE USG ANY AMBARRASSMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO PRESENT SOMETHING THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE DENOUNCED IN WASHINGTON AS SOMETHING US COULD IN NO WAY

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AGREE TO OR SUPPORT.

5. RHODESIANS WERE ASKED HOW THEY INTENDED TO CHARACTERIZE THE PAPER WHEN THEY PRESENTED IT, SPECIFICALLY HOW THEY INTENDED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THEIR PROPOSAL, WHICH WERE CERTAIN TO BE RAISED IN THE CONFERENCE. PARTRIDGE SAID HE INTENDED TO SAY ONLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS AND WORKING PAPERS

THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE US AND OTHERS, THAT THE RHODESIAN PAPER REFLECTED SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT THAT THE PAPER WAS ESSENTIALLY A NEW DOCUMENT DRAWN UP BY THE RHODESIANS TO OUTLINE THEIR VIEWS AND NOT THOSE OF ANY OTHER PARTY. PARTRIDGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE CONTINUING DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN SALISBURY AND WASHINGTON OVER WHAT THE US HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO SUPPORTING IN TERMS OF BOTH ANNEX C AND THE FIVE POINTS AND THAT THIS IS WHY HE WANTED US TO SEE THE DOCUMENT IN ADVANCE. WADDINGTON SAID THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A COPY OF THE CLEARED PAPER, WITH ANY CHANGES SUGGESTED BY SALISBURY, BY NOON DECEMBER 7. WILL PROVIDE DEPT

WITH TEXT AND MORE DETAILS ON RHODESIAN PLANS AS SOON AS THEY ARE AVAILABLE. CATTO
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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